

Stigma day
Report of stigma day campaign
Date: 1st March 2019
Venue: REMERA Health Center



Introduction

Stigma remains the single most important barrier to public action. It is a main reason why too many people are afraid to see a doctor to determine whether they have the disease, or to seek treatment if so. It helps make AIDS the silent killer, because people fear the social disgrace of speaking about it, or taking easily available precautions.

Stigma is a chief reason why the AIDS epidemic continues to devastate societies around the world. It may also preclude marriage and the opportunity to bear and raise children. It may prohibit temporary or longer-term migration for work or for other reasons, and it may prevent participation in religious or cultural ceremonies. Stigma may also trigger verbal or physical violence, isolation or complete ostracism. Stigma is based on socially defined norms of behavior, moral judgments and fear (perhaps of contagion or simply of difference). Although socially constructed, it frequently has tremendous personal effects. Stigma can be both internalized as shame or guilt, and externalized as discrimination. HIV-related stigma and discrimination continue to occur in all national settings, although they manifest differently and in varying degrees in different locations. They frequently work to entrench existing social inequalities and intersect with other forms of stigma, including discrimination based on gender, sexuality, ethnicity and stigmas associated with particular behaviors and activities. Stigma has profound implications for HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

Objective of the Campaign

Raising awareness within YPLHIV: some healing therapies for HIV infected and affected persons shall aid these people to build positive vibes and regain their lost confidence

We need to focus on addressing the issue of self-stigma through the campaign by tackling psychosocial issues and promote self-acceptance, self-confidence and health-seeking habits for young living with HIV.

Participants in the campaign

Young people living with HIV 35

Doctors and Nurses from Remera Health center 6

Three NGOs were represented

NGOs: Dream Village 2

Kigali Hope 1

RRP+ 1

Other invited guest

7 children mothers

Pastor Liliane

Shifra representative

Alex MC: gave introduction and welcome remarks and give a brief background of the stigma day campaign and introduction of the host organization **SHIFRA KIRABO Foundation** a foundation that was started by a young person living with HIV with the mission of “**Healing the world with love and giving**”

Through her own words Shifra addressed the participants and gave remarks on the stigma day and thank everyone for participate in the campaign for that short notice

Pastor Lillian



Preaching about stories in the bible that brings hope and encourage participant's young people to stand strong against criticism of the outside society

RRP+ (Rwanda Network of people living with HIV)



TUGIRIMANA Jean Berchmans he is in charge of youth in Rwanda Network of people living with HIV gave presentation on what the constitution of Rwanda says about stigma and discrimination of any kind and rights of people living with HIV in accessing services and take a moment of encouraging youth to believe that they are capable of anything they wish to do.

After the presentation we had a short break and one of young musician artist who participated in the campaign entertained participants.

Remera Health Center



Dr Emile MUSABYIMANA director of Remera Health Center gave welcome remarks and rights of young people to access health services in the health center; he also took a moment of taking everyone for their efforts in fighting stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and thank young people for the idea of being in the front line fighting stigma.

Photo shoot campaign



All the participants joined hands with young people in raising their voices against



stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS.

We had written messages that address stigma and people were free to write their own messages that address stigma and discrimination

Thank You!!

